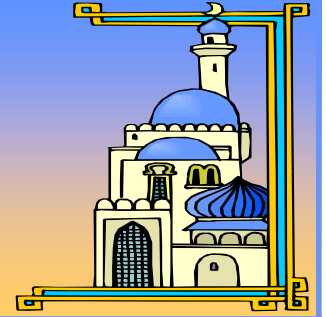


الاعتكاف

I'tikaaf in the last ten days of Ramadaan



The observation of I'tikaaf during the last ten days of Ramadaan was a practice which Rasoolullah Sallallaahu Alayhi Wa Sallam observed assiduously throughout his life in Madinah Munawwarah. The devotion that Rasoolullah Sallallaahu Alayhi Wa Sallam attached to this beautiful Sunnah can be understood by the fact that on one occasion when he was unable to observe I'tikaaf, due to being out on an expedition, he observed twenty days I'tikaaf the following year.

The spiritual benefits that are attained from this wonderful Sunnah are innumerable. Who can possibly describe the spiritual ecstasy experienced from communicating in solitude with Allah Ta'aala, while one is a guest in the Masjid with the Malaaikeh (angels) as his companions.

Undisturbed seclusion in the Masjid is indeed an excellent way to exclusively engage oneself in personal communication with Allah Ta'aala. Away from the comfort of the home, family members and daily work routine, I'tikaaf enhances one's proximity to Allah Ta'aala and secures the internal and external purification of the Mu'takif .

Remember! Such precious moments come but once a year - and who can guarantee being present for the next Ramadaan.

Hazrat Abdullah Ibn Abbas Radhiyallaahu Anhumaa reports that Rasoolullah Sallallaahu Alayhi Wa Sallam said; 'Whosoever performs I'tikaaf for a day thereby seeking the pleasure of Allah Ta'aala, Allah Ta'aala will open three trenches between him and the fire of hell, the width of each (trench) being the distance between the heaven and the earth. (Tabraani)

The Ulama, considering the importance attached by Rasoolullah Sallallaahu Alayhi Wa Sallam to this noble practice, have ruled it necessary that this Sunnah be observed by at least one member of every locality. Failure to do so will result in the entire locality being guilty of neglecting this great Sunnah.

NB. The Sunnat I'tikaaf for this year will commence at sunset of **Thursday, 10 September, 2009.**

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